

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Serial No.: 10/522,802
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC Ref: Q85495

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Figures 2 and 9

Attachment: 2 Replacement Sheets

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REMARKS

Dealing with initial matters first, the Examiner has objected to the drawings requested that the blocks in Figures 2 and 9 be labeled. Applicants submit herewith corrected drawings including Figures 2 and 9 with the blocks appropriately labeled. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that this objection has been overcome.

Claims 1-25 are all the claims pending in the application. The Examiner has objected to claims 19-21 and 25 as being in improper dependent form. With respect to claims 19-21, these claims have been amended in the manner suggested by the Examiner. However, claim 25, like claim 1, is directed to an electro-optical system and further adds the limitation that it comprises an optical device for measuring the distances of the obstacles. It is submitted that claim 25 is proper in its current form. Thus, this objection is traversed.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-25 under § 112 (second paragraph) as being indefinite. Applicants thank the Examiner for carefully reviewing the claims and for indicating those aspects of the claims which are deemed to be indefinite. Applicants have amended the claims with the Examiner's comments in mind and with the goal of improving their overall clarity. Accordingly, it is submitted that the claims comply with the specificity requirements of § 112 (second paragraph).

Applicants note with appreciation that the Examiner has indicated that claims 7-25 contain allowable subject matter. On the other hand, Applicants respectfully traverse the § 102(b) rejection of claims 1-6 based on Lubard (EP 1256816 A2). Claim 1 is directed to an

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electro-optical system capable of being embarked aboard a mobile unit for determining optical flow generated by obstacles in relative motion with respect to the mobile unit.

The "*optical flow*", as defined on page 1 lines 21-28 of the application, is a parameter that indicates the speed whereby elements with different contrast move in a scene, as a result of the relative motion between an observer (the mobile unit) and the objects present in the scene.

Considering an object moving with a relative speed v with respect to an observer (the mobile unit) and at an orthogonal distance d with respect to the observer, the optical flow is given by the ratio between the speed v and the distance d .

Regarding document EP 1 256 816 to Lubard et al., it should be pointed out that:

- 1) the electro-optical system in this document does not measure the optical flow generated by obstacles in relative motion with respect to a mobile unit (ground-moving or flying unit), but instead detects the presence of targets (with distance and deep measurements) located in a light-reflecting medium (air, water, living tissue, etc.);
- 2) the processing means does not compute the optical flow on the receiver means, but instead has the object of imaging the information collected by the streak tube and by the CCD camera on a CRT display.

In view of the above, it is submitted that none of the claims is anticipated by Lubard et al.

Accordingly, immediate allowance of the application is respectfully requested. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian W. Hannon", written over a horizontal line.

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